

(1) The number of alleged violations of Senate rules received from any source [in 2007], including the number raised by a Senator or staff of the Committee: 95. (This figure does not include 16 alleged violations from the previous year carried into 2007.)

(2) The number of alleged violations that were dismissed—

(A) For lack of subject matter jurisdiction or in which, even if the allegations in the complaint are true, no violation of Senate rules would exist: 71. (This figure includes 5 matters originating in the previous year.)

(B) Because they failed to provide sufficient facts as to any material violation of the Senate rules beyond mere allegation or assertion: 15. (This figure includes 2 matters originating in the previous year.)

(3) The number of alleged violations in which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry: 16. (This figure includes 9 matters from the previous year carried into 2007 and includes 5 inquiries continuing into 2008.)

(4) The number of alleged violations that resulted in an adjudicatory review: 0.

(5) The number of alleged violations that the Committee dismissed for lack of substantial merit: 11. (This figure includes 7 matters from the previous year carried into 2007.)

(6) The number of private letters of admonition or public letters of admonition issued: 0.

(7) The number of matters resulting in a disciplinary sanction: 0.

(8) Any other information deemed by the Committee to be appropriate to describe its activities in the previous year:

In 2007, the Committee, through its staff, conducted 121 ethics educational briefings and seminars, including 72 sessions for individual Member or Committee offices and 37 sessions for a general Senate audience.

In 2007, Committee staff handled over 16,000 telephone inquiries for ethics advice and guidance.

In 2007, the Committee wrote over 1,000 ethics advisory letters and responses, including over 700 advisories concerning gifts or travel.

The Committee issued over 3,500 letters concerning financial disclosure filings by Senators, Senate staff and Senate candidates, including over 1,200 letters concerning required amendments to these disclosure filings.

REMEMBERING MONE LITTLE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, Monday marked the 1-year anniversary of the tragic death of Mone Little. On January 28, 2007, 19-year-old Mone, granddaughter of late Motown legend and lead singer of The Temptations, David Ruffin, was gunned down in a drive-by shooting while walking with three friends in Detroit. While Mone was not the target, she was the only one in the group who was shot. Those responsible for this heinous crime have not been caught.

Mone, a student at Oakland Community College, was in the process of exploring her dreams. The community continues to grieve the senseless loss of this young woman. Unfortunately, we experience too many of these tragedies. Each year approximately 30,000 Americans are killed by a firearm, an average of 10 children and 74 adults each day.

Many of us continue to urge the Senate to pass sensible gun legislation. Law enforcement officers have re-

quested help in their difficult task of keeping our streets safe. Those that have been personally impacted by gun tragedies have called for change in the hope of protecting others from the pain they have endured.

The American people have a right to expect better protection against gun violence. Until Congress acts, many more lives will be lost. I once again urge my colleagues to take up and pass sensible gun legislation so that we can help prevent such tragedies.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT M. BALL

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Robert Ball. Bob Ball has been a champion of America's elderly since 1939, helping to guide and strengthen our Social Security system for nearly 70 years. He was America's longest serving Social Security Commissioner, overseeing improvements to benefits such as the introduction of automatic cost-of-living adjustments. Today, about a third of our Nation's elderly rely on Social Security for 90 percent or more of their income, and two-thirds count on it to supply at least half of their income. It has been America's most successful anti-poverty program ever, due in no small part to Bob's influence.

While he is little known outside Washington, Bob played a critical role in the origins of our most recognizable Government programs. His work led to the introduction of Social Security disability insurance, and now because of him more than 7 million Americans who can't work due to a disability can still live in dignity. He helped create our Medicare system, which now provides health care to more than 40 million elderly Americans. Even as he became a Social Security recipient himself, he continued to defend the program against benefit cuts and privatization proposals. There is no question that Robert Ball's work has improved the lives of millions of Americans. His character, wisdom, and leadership will be greatly missed.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, very sadly, Robert M. Ball, Bob Ball, passed away on January 29, 2008, at the age of 93. Bob Ball had a truly exceptional record of public service and his passing is a loss to this nation. Bob Ball served as the longest serving Commissioner of the Social Security Administration from 1962 to 1973 and played a critical role in all changes to the Social Security programs for the last half century. He was a champion of social insurance programs, and through his leadership, the Social Security Administration tackled many challenges and served millions of Americans in need. Few individuals have had as direct and profound an effect on the lives of our fellow citizens. And I would like to express my personal gratitude for Bob Ball's dedicated service.

Bob Ball began his career with Social Security in a New Jersey field office in

1939. At SSA's headquarters, he served in various positions with the Bureau of Old Age and Survivors Insurance. He left the agency briefly in 1945 to serve as staff director for the Advisory Council on Social Security to the Senate Committee on Finance, and returned 4 years later serving as assistant director of the Bureau of Old Age and Survivors Insurance, and eventually, deputy director and acting director.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy appointed Bob Ball Commissioner of Social Security, a position he held under both Democratic and Republican Presidents—retiring in 1973. During his time at SSA, he helped establish the Disability Insurance Program, the Medicare Program, and the Supplemental Security Income Program. These programs now protect millions of Americans from what President Franklin D. Roosevelt called the hazards and vicissitudes of life—disability that prevents work, and extended old age, both of which can cause severe poverty.

Following his retirement, Bob Ball went on to be one of the most active and prolific advocates for Social Security and social insurance programs. He was an influential member of the Greenspan Commission, which in 1983 reestablished Social Security on a sound financial footing, and has written and spoken on every proposal to improve Social Security's current financing difficulties, including the grossly flawed proposals to privatize Social Security. Bob Ball founded the National Academy of Social Insurance in 1986 to promote understanding and informed policymaking on Social Security and other social insurance programs through research, training, and public events for the exchange of unbiased information.

Bob Ball was a great American who dedicated his life to serving others. His passing is a great loss to this body and to all policymakers. I am sure my colleagues will join me in offering our deepest condolences to his family and to his friends and colleagues. I hope that we can keep his dedication in mind as we continue his life's work and secure our retirement and disability programs for the millions of Americans who benefit and will benefit from his service.

WILD MONONGAHELA ACT

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the Wild Monongahela: A National Legacy for West Virginia's Special Places Act. This important piece of legislation sets aside over 47,000 acres of wilderness in the Monongahela National Forest so that our children and grandchildren will have the opportunity to enjoy the forest in its pristine state.

West Virginians have a proud tradition of mining and logging that provides needed resources for our entire country. I have no doubt that this tradition will continue for many decades